

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 VIENTI 05401 031016Z

11

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-15 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-02 PM-03 DODE-00 PRS-01 EUR-10 RSR-01

IO-03 /070 W

----- 128441

R 030853Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5214

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

CINCPAC

S E C R E T VIENTIANE 5401

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, PINT, MIPS, LA

SUBJECT: LAO PROTOCOL NEGOTIATIONS: RLG AND LPF REACH
AGREEMENT ON TWO-THIRDS OF THE PROVISIONS.

SUMMARY: NEGOTIATIONS REMAIN ON TRACK. THE RLG-LPF NEGOTIATORS HAVE COMPLETED DRAFTING THE PROVISIONS FOR THE POLITICAL SETTLEMENT AND THE NEUTRALIZATION OF LUANG PRABANG AND VIENTIANE. THEY ARE NOW WORKING ON PROVISIONS DEALING WITH TROOP WITHDRAWAL, EMPLACEMENT OF STAKES SEPARATING THE TWO FORCES, AND ICC. COMSERVATIVE RLG LEADER NGON SANANIKONE IS PARTICIPATING IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AT SOUVANNA'S REQUEST (IN ORDER TO ASSOCIATE THE RIGHT WITH AGREEMENT) BUT IS SLOWING DOWN NEGOTIATIONS BY PUNCTILIOUS SCRUTINY OF EVERY PHRASE AND EVEN INTRODUCING NEW DEMANDS. PRIME MINISTER REMAINS CONFIDENT PROTOCOL WILL BE SIGNED NEXT WEEK. END SUMMARY.

1. I MET WITH PRIME MINISTER AND PHENG AUGUST 3 AND
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 VIENTI 05401 031016Z

FROM THESE TWO MEETINGS PIECED TOGETHER STATUS OF

NEGOTIATIONS:

A. PHENG AND PHOUMI HAVE COMPLETED DRAFTING INTRODUCTION TO PROTOCOL, ALL PROVISIONS RELATED TO THE COALITION GOVERNMENT, THE JOINT NATIONAL POLITICAL COUNCIL AND THE NEUTRALIZATION OF VIENTIANE AND LUANG PRABANG. HENCE ABOUT TWO THIRDS OF THE PROTOCOL HAS BEEN DRAFTED.

B. THE TWO NEGOTIATORS ARE NOW WORKING ON THE MILITARY PORTIONS OF THE PROTOCOL WHERE THE NUMBER OF STAKES SEPARATING THE TWO SIDES HAS RESURGED AS A PROBLEM. THE CONSERVATIVE LEADER NGON SANANIKONE, AT THE REQUEST OF FAR, WANTS THE NUMBER OF STAKES RAISED FROM 24 TO 44. SINCE EARLIER IN THE NEGOTIATIONS PHENG HAD AGREED ON INITIAL 24 STAKES WITH THE FINAL NUMBER TO BE DETERMINED BY THE JOINT LAO COMMISSION AFTER FORMATION OF THE COALITION GOVERNMENT, PHOUMI NOW ACCUSES RLG OF RENEGING AND TRYING TO REOPEN ISSUES ON WHICH AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED. PHENG THOUGHT THAT DESPITE NGON'S FOOT-DRAWING, THE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE COMPLETED NEXT WEEK AND PROTOCOL CAN BE SIGNED AT THAT TIME.

C. ONE PROBLEM SOUVANNA IS GOING TO DISCUSS WITH THE KING IS HOW TO INVEST NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT WITHOUT OFFENDING EITHER NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OR PATHET LAO. SOUVANNA IS THINKING OF SENDING TEXT OF THE FEBRUARY AGREEMENT AND IMPLEMENTING PROTOCOL TO BE SIGNED NEXT WEEK TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR CONSIDERATION. HE HAS NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER NATIONAL ASSEMBLY NEEDS TO VOTE FORMALLY ON THE AGREEMENT OR WHETHER ACT OF SENDING INFORMATION TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WITHOUT DEPUTIES CASTING A VOTE COULD BE INTERPRETED AS ASSEMBLY'S ACQUIESCENCE IN GOVT. ACTION. SOUVANNA IS CAUGHT BETWEEN LPF'S VIOLENT OPPOSITION TO SUBMITTING AGREEMENT TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR APPROVAL AND KING'S INSISTENCE THAT CONSTITUTION BE RESPECTED TO THE MAXIMUM.

2. I ALSO DISCUSSED WITH BOTH SOUVANNA AND PHENG THE QUESTION OF SUPERVISION OF WITHDRAWAL FROM LAOS OF FOREIGN FORCES AND MILITARY ADVISERS ALONG LINES STATE 150615. ALTHOUGH SOUVANNA WOULD LIKE TO BE THE ONLY ONE TO RESOLVE DISPUTES WITHIN THE TWO PARTY LAO

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 VIENTI 05401 031016Z

COMMISSION, HE THOUGHT THAT THIS WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO OBTAIN FROM LPF AND THAT HIS HALF BROTHER SOUPHANOUVONG WOULD HAVE TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH BREAKING DEADLOCKS CAUSED BY THE UNANIMITY RULE WITHIN THE LAO MILITARY COMMISSION.

3. COMMENT: WHILE PROGRESS IN DRAFTING THE PROTOCOL HAS BEEN SLOW, I THINK NEGOTIATIONS ARE SUFFICIENTLY FAR

ADVANCED THAT THE PROTOCOL CAN BE SIGNED END OF NEXT
WEEK. EVEN NGON SANANIKONE, ONE OF THE MOST
RECALCITRANT RLG MEMBERS, WITH WHOM I DISCUSSED THE
NEGOTIATIONS, AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE SIGNED BEFORE
AUGUST 15.
DEAN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973VIENTI05401
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS DEAN
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730857/aaaabqdh.tel
Line Count: 121
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03-Dec-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <27 FEB 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LAO PROTOCOL NEGOTIATIONS: RLG AND LPF REACH AGREEMENT ON TWO-THIRDS OF THE PROVISIONS.
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, PINT, MOPS, LA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005